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Special theme: the Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: redefining the Goals

Information received from the United Nations system

International Fund for Agricultural Development

Summary

In acknowledgement of the importance of the development of indigenous peoples to attaining the Millennium Development Goals, in September 2005, Phrang Roy was designated as Assistant President on special assignment for indigenous and tribal issues.

Following recommendations made by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is pleased to report the allocation of $62.2 million in loans and $500,000 in grants for projects in support of indigenous peoples in 2005.

In addition, the Fund also approved two institutional grants for a total of $350,000. The first was provided to the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum to define indicators of poverty and well-being based on indigenous peoples' own principles, concepts and practices for development. Gender-specific indicators will also be identified in this process. In addition, the grant will enable the Secretariat to ensure that the indicators are widely applied at the country, regional and global level by relevant United Nations agencies and Governments.

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The second grant was provided to the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development to initiate a worldwide comparative action-research project on the theme of "Identity, power and rights" in relation to indigenous communities. This action research will foster mutual understanding among States, multinational companies and indigenous peoples about the development perspectives of indigenous peoples and raise awareness of the rights and capacity of indigenous peoples to determine their own development.

Also in 2005, IFAD:

- Financed, through the Regional Programme in Support of Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon Basin, a second round of learning workshops in the Bolivian Amazon, which focused on the most successful initiatives of indigenous ecotourism in the region. A workshop was also organized in Peru for the exchange of experiences among representatives of 16 of the most promising indigenous projects in the region. Workshop participants selected 3 projects from among the 16 for a best practices award.

- Sponsored the participation of an indigenous expert in the Workshop on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge organized by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum in Panama.

- In collaboration with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum, organized a workshop in Rome on indigenous and tribal peoples' perspectives on selected IFAD-funded projects.

- Organized a number of side events at the 10-year review of the Beijing Conference, at which members of the Permanent Forum and indigenous women were invited to discuss their particular concerns.

The focal points on indigenous issues are Phrang Roy, Antonella Cordone and Vanda Altarelli.

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I. Recommendations addressed exclusively to the International Fund for Agricultural Development

1. In 2004, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues addressed two specific recommendations to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

- To lead the mainstreaming of indigenous issues and concerns into poverty reduction strategies at the country level, in collaboration with multilateral organizations, regional agencies and indigenous organizations.
- To initiate programmes in support of pastoralists and semi-nomadic groups in Africa.

2. In terms of the first recommendation, IFAD has been working closely with the World Bank, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, the Department for International Development (of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and other bilateral organizations on poverty reduction strategies. The main achievement of IFAD in 2004 was to bring to the attention of relevant Governments and multilateral and bilateral agencies the fact that poverty is essentially a rural phenomenon. During the meetings held with these agencies in 2005, IFAD, in collaboration with the World Bank, started sensitizing stakeholders to the importance of including indigenous concerns in poverty reduction strategy practices. This process of sensitization is expected to continue in the coming years.

3. In response to the second recommendation, in 2006, IFAD:

- Financed a programme in the United Republic of Tanzania that is specifically targeted at pastoral and agropastoral households.
- Has started preparing a project in northern Mali in support of pastoralists.
- Will ensure that the revision of regional strategies over the coming year will reflect the need for special assistance to pastoralists.

4. In 2005, the Permanent Forum addressed one specific recommendation to IFAD: that IFAD work on formulating operational guidelines for indigenous peoples' issues and an advocacy framework to promote the rights and the development of indigenous peoples and to attain development goals of relevance to indigenous peoples which emerge from international conferences, summits and conventions.

5. The Fund is currently reflecting on how to initiate a process that would lead to the adoption by the Executive Board of principles of engagement on indigenous issues for use in IFAD operations. Also under consideration are approaches to internalizing the advocacy framework that was prepared with the assistance of the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum and the experiences gained by IFAD in the field and through cooperation with partners at the international level.

II. Recommendations addressed to agencies

6. The Permanent Forum recommended the mobilization of resources for projects in support of indigenous peoples. It also recommended that international financial institutions design programmes that provide indigenous women with access to credit (in the form of microfinance services). In this regard, IFAD is pleased to report an

allocation, in 2005, of $62.2 million in loans and $500,000 in grants for projects to support indigenous peoples, and in particular, indigenous women (see below, section III and annex). IFAD has also been promoting, in cooperation with the International Alliance Against Hunger, community-led indigenous women's alliances against hunger in north-east India. Building on the IFAD-funded project in the region, indigenous women, through self-help groups and their federations, are attempting to join hands with civil society organizations and the State Government to use collective actions to reduce hunger and poverty.

III. Other relevant information on recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations and activities

7. In 2005, IFAD's Executive Board approved six loans for projects in support of indigenous peoples and pastoralists, with a special focus on women. Three of the projects will be undertaken in Asia (China, India and Lao People's Democratic Republic), one in Latin America (Mexico) and one in Africa (the United Republic of Tanzania). The total cost amounted to $190.3 million, of which IFAD provided $62.2 million.[1] The projects should benefit about 1.5 million indigenous and pastoralist households. Most of the projects will promote rural financial services and microenterprises for its beneficiaries through the creation of self-help groups, many of which will be made up of indigenous women.

8. In 2005, IFAD also approved two institutional grants to indigenous organizations and their supporting institutions, at a total cost of $350,000 (see annex for details). The first grant was to the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to:

- Undertake three regional consultations among representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to define indicators of poverty and well-being based upon indigenous peoples' own principles, concepts and practices of development. Gender-specific indicators will also be identified during this process
- Review the proposed indicators and formulate indigenous-sensitive indicators that are applicable globally and indicators that are region-specific
- Provide interim feedback during the fifth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Ensure that these indicators are widely applied at the country, regional and global levels by relevant United Nations agencies and Governments.

9. The second grant was provided to the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development to initiate a worldwide comparative action-research project on the theme "Identity, power and rights" in relation to indigenous communities. This grant will be implemented in close collaboration with the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and has the following specific objectives:

- To commission eight case studies on the above-mentioned theme in selected countries

[1] The Fund also financed a project in Morocco for $16.2 million. This included support to improve the livelihoods of the Amazigh people living in the eastern middle Atlas region.

- To raise awareness of the rights and the capacity of indigenous peoples to determine their own development path and of the need for States and international agencies to create inclusive consultative platforms that provide these groups with an avenue to participate in decisions that affect their way of life

- To use the research findings to aid the work of the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum and other United Nations agencies and to assist these bodies in helping indigenous communities achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other social and human rights goals

- To publish and disseminate articles, occasional papers and at least one edited volume on the research theme to draw attention to the challenge of recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples without impeding infrastructure and sectoral development.

10. Finally, a country-specific grant of $500,000 was provided to Guatemala (National Peace Fund) to assist households affected by Hurricane Stan.

11. The Fund sponsored the participation of an indigenous expert in the Workshop on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, which was organized by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum in Panama in September 2005. A study was commissioned for the occasion, documenting work on indigenous ethno-botanical knowledge in the Philippines supported by IFAD. This resulted in the document prepared for the Workshop entitled *Indigenous knowledge systems and intellectual property rights: an enabling tool for development with identity*.

12. IFAD also contributed 9 of the 17 case studies included in the publication compiled by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum: *Indigenous women and the United Nations system: Good practices and lessons learned*.

13. In November 2005, through the Regional Programme in Support of Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon Basin, IFAD financed a 10-day encounter on the theme "Indigenous tourist enterprises: management experiences". Held in the Bolivian Amazon, this event enabled indigenous representatives undertaking or expecting to undertake ecotourism activities to visit successful ecotourism initiatives and share experiences. (For more details, see www.praia-amazonia.org — Ruta de Aprendizaje.)

14. Also through the Regional Programme in the Amazon Basin, an experience-sharing workshop was organized in Peru. Representatives of 16 of the region's most promising indigenous projects gathered for a week to share experiences; the three projects considered most successful by workshop participants received a prize for best practices. (For more details, see www.praia-amazonia.org — Experiencia Viva.)

15. In November 2005, IFAD and the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum sponsored a two-day workshop on indigenous and tribal peoples' perspectives on selected IFAD-funded projects. The purpose was to present the findings of reviews conducted by indigenous experts to assess the extent to which the five IFAD-funded projects were based on the principles, worldview and development practices of indigenous and tribal peoples. The workshop also offered a unique opportunity to exchange ideas on how international organizations and national Governments could play a more effective role in addressing constraints, challenges and opportunities in relation to indigenous and tribal peoples. All the case studies concluded that IFAD-

funded projects took into account the principles and practices of indigenous and tribal peoples and promoted gender and intergenerational equity. The case studies provided greater insight into the role of culture, identity and indigenous traditional knowledge in development. According to the studies, IFAD had developed and used institutional innovations to elaborate and reinforce concepts and practices consistent with the views of indigenous and tribal peoples on development. The Fund's approach also helped to build indigenous and tribal peoples' organizations and governance systems and give them a strong sense of self-determination. Moreover, the transfer of decision-making power, responsibilities and resources to communities had fostered transparency and accountability, for example, in the collective accounting of funds and control over their use and management. However, one of the case studies revealed that IFAD still formulates projects mainly from a rural development perspective and is not always fully aware that indigenous peoples have internationally sanctioned collective rights to their traditional territories, lands and resources, and a right to their own culture and language.

IV. Fourth session special theme: Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples

16. Under the grant provided by IFAD, the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum organized a side event at the Governing Council in February 2005 on integrating indigenous peoples' perspectives on development to reach the Millennium Development Goals. The panellists included indigenous experts from Latin America, Asia and Africa; Permanent Forum members; IFAD staff; and government representatives from Finland and the Philippines. A second side event, on the same theme, was organized at the fourth session of the Permanent Forum. The panel included representatives of indigenous organizations, other indigenous experts and representatives of Governments.

V. International Fund for Agricultural Development support to conferences and meetings on indigenous issues

17. The Fund expects to support and participate in a workshop on indigenous peoples and communication for development, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Bolivia in June 2006.

18. In collaboration with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, IFAD also expects to support and participate in the World Bank-organized workshop on indigenous peoples and poverty in New York in May 2006.

19. IFAD is working closely with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum, some of its members and other partners to develop a better understanding of the operational implications of development with identity and indigenous governance. The results of this initiative will be discussed at a brainstorming workshop in the second half of 2006 (specific dates to be determined).

20. A second brainstorming workshop may deal with the issue of indigenous technology and technology blending.

* **Annex**

IFAD-financed projects/programmes in support of indigenous peoples — 2005

A. Loans

Country	*Project/programme title*	*Project/programme objective*	*Project/programme area and target group*	*Project/programme components*	*Project/programme cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
China	South Gansu poverty-reduction programme	**Main objective**: Achieve sustainable and equitable poverty reduction in mountainous areas of south Gansu **Specific objectives**: Achieve a sustainable increase in productive capacity and income growth, improve the environment and increase impact of social services in the programme area	**Programme area**: 109 selected townships in 10 counties in the middle-south portion of Gansu province **Target group**: Rural poor and very poor households, encompassing a large number of ethnic minorities	(a) Investment in rural productivity infrastructure and socio-economic infrastructure (b) Access to financial services and credit (c) Ensure that the intellectual capabilities of all children are enhanced through access to primary education (d) Reinforce human development and grass-roots organizations	Estimated total cost benefiting ethnic minorities: $40 million, of which IFAD loan benefiting them estimated at $14 million	275 000 ethnic minority households (estimated)

Country	*Project/programme title*	*Project/programme objective*	*Project/programme area and target group*	*Project/programme components*	*Project/programme cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
India	Tejaswini rural women's empowerment programme	**Main objective**: Poor women make use of choices, spaces and opportunities in economic, social and political spheres for their improved well-being **Specific objectives**: (a) Create strong and sustainable self-help groups and related apex organizations (b) Provide access to microfinance services (c) Promote new and improved livelihood opportunities (d) Create access to functional literacy training and labour-saving infrastructure, and strengthen participation in local governance	**Programme area**: 33 rural districts of Maharashtra (of which 16 are tribal districts) and 6 districts in Madhya Pradesh (of which 3 are tribal-dominated) **Target group**: Women members of self-help groups	(a) Grass-roots institution-building (b) Microfinance services (c) Livelihood and enterprise development (d) Women's empowerment and social equity (e) Programme management and institutional support	Estimated total cost benefiting tribal women: $104.4 million, of which IFAD loan benefiting them estimated at $19.7 million	560 000 tribal households (estimated)

Country	*Project/programme title*	*Project/programme objective*	*Project/programme area and target group*	*Project/programme components*	*Project/programme cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Rural livelihoods improvement programme in Attapeu and Saybouri	**Main objective** Sustained economic growth and livelihood improvement for the rural poor (including women and vulnerable groups) in 8 districts **Specific objectives:** **(a) Communities managing their own development** **(b) Communities using sustainable farming and natural resource management systems and practising off-farm income-generating activities** **(c) Communities having access to local roads** **(d) Decentralized and participatory rural development being managed in a sustainable, accountable, gender-sensitive and pro-poor way**	**Programme area:** Three southern districts in Attapeu and 5 northern districts in Sayabouri **Target group:** 26 200 poor and food-insecure households	(a) Social development (b) Economic development and natural resource management (c) Rural infrastructure improvement **(d) Institutional development and capacity-building**	Estimated total cost benefiting ethnic minorities: $13 million, of which IFAD loan benefiting them estimated at $8.6 million	13 000 households (estimated)

Country	*Project/programme title*	*Project/programme objective*	*Project/programme area and target group*	*Project/programme components*	*Project/programme cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
Mexico	Sustainable development project for rural and indigenous communities of the semi-arid north-west	**Main objective**: Levels of poverty and marginality faced by rural poor communities (indigenous and non-indigenous) are reduced **Specific objectives**: Communities and organizations in the project area develop capacity to participate in local social and economic development processes, improve their productive and employment opportunities, and increase their incomes Sustainability of natural resources is enhanced	**Project area**: 19 municipalities in 4 states of the semi-arid north-west region of Mexico **Target group**: Small poor farmers (farmers who are members of *ejidos* [a legal form of communal ownership] and smallholders); landless farmers and rural labourers; rural microentrepreneurs; and rural and indigenous women and youth	(a) Rehabilitation and conservation of natural resources (b) Strengthening of local development capability (c) Development of rural and nature-based tourism microenterprises (d) Institutional strengthening	Estimated total cost benefiting indigenous peoples: $9.33 million, of which IFAD loan benefiting them estimated at $7.5 million	53 250 households (estimated)

Country	*Project/programme title*	*Project/programme objective*	*Project/programme area and target group*	*Project/programme components*	*Project/programme cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
United Republic of Tanzania	Agricultural sector development programme – livestock: support for pastoral and agro-pastoral development	**Main objective** Reduce poverty, improve food security and increase incomes among communities with a high level of livelihood dependence on livestock **Specific objectives** (a) Improve the livelihoods of the poorest agropastoralists and pastoralists (b) Strengthen the capacity of livestock communities (c) Enhance the delivery of livestock development services to smallholders (d) Improve marketing infrastructure and marketing systems for livestock products (e) Strengthen national and local government institutions to provide services to the livestock subsector	**Programme area** 11 regions, which include 21 districts **Target group** Small, livestock-dependent farmers, in particular poor, extremely poor and women farmers. In Zanzibar, the programme also targets fishers who are livestock owners	(a) Empowerment (b) Technical support to livestock development (c) Health and water service development (d) Support to policy dialogue, and legal and regulatory frameworks and institutions (e) Programme management	Estimated total cost benefiting pastoralists: $23.6 million, of which IFAD loan benefiting them estimated at $12.4 million	Approximately 600 000 pastoralist households

B. Global grants

Country/ organization	*Title*	*Objectives*	*Area*	*Components*	*Cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
Global: Secretariat to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	—	**Main objective**: To enable indigenous communities to assess their well-being according to their own principles, concepts and practices of development **Specific objectives**: (a) To provide indigenous communities, through regional consultations, with an opportunity to define their own indicators of poverty and well-being based upon their principles, concepts and practices of development (b) To propose indigenous-sensitive indicators at the global and regional levels (c) To ensure their wide diffusion and adoption through advocacy work by the Permanent Forum and the Inter-Agency Support Group	Global	Undertaking 3 regional consultations (Africa, Asia and Latin America) that gather together representatives of indigenous organizations to define indicators of poverty and well-being based upon indigenous peoples' own principles, concepts and practices of development Reviewing the proposed indicators and formulating indigenous-sensitive indicators that are applicable globally and indicators that are region-specific Ensuring that these indicators are widely applied at the country, regional and global levels by relevant United Nations agencies and State Governments. This will be achieved through advocacy work by the Permanent Forum and the Inter-Agency Support Group	IFAD contribution: $150,000	Indigenous peoples of the world

Country/ organization	*Title*	*Objectives*	*Area*	*Components*	*Cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
Global: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development	Identity, power and rights	**Main objective**: To ensure that the indigenous vision of development and indigenous rights is recognized, respected and taken into consideration in development programmes **Specific objectives**: (a) To undertake action research in 8 selected countries on the theme "Identity, power and rights" (b) To foster mutual understanding among States, multinationals and indigenous peoples about visions of development (c) To raise awareness of the rights and capacity of indigenous peoples to determine their own development	Global	Commissioning and undertaking eight case studies in 8 countries Hosting workshops to discuss project focus and findings Preparation and dissemination of project findings through the publication of working papers, occasional papers, policy briefs, articles and book(s)	Total cost: $285,000; IFAD contribution: $199,000	Indigenous peoples of the world, Governments, multinationals and multilateral agencies

C. Country grants

Country/ organization	*Programme title*	*Programme objectives*	*Programme area and target group*	*Programme components*	*Programme cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
Country-specific: Guatemala (National Peace Fund)	Smallholder agricultural production reactivation and infrastructure reconstruction programme in response to Hurricane Stan in the Department of Sololà, Guatemala	**Main objectives**: To contribute to the reconstruction of infrastructure for sustainable agricultural production in 13 municipalities of Sololá Department, affected by Hurricane Stan **Specific objectives**: **(a) The reconstruction and rehabilitation of 6 bridges and the clean-up of rockslides and landslides in small sections of rural roads (33 kilometres)** **(b) Rehabilitation of 3 micro-irrigation systems to promote the reactivation of smallholder agricultural production for self-consumption and the supply of produce to local and departmental markets** (c) Reforestation of selected steep-sloped, particularly vulnerable areas and other areas urgently requiring attention in order to protect selected	**Programme area**: 13 municipalities in Sololá Department **Target group**: Indigenous small producers and community-based subsistence farmers residing in small rural communities with little access to necessary social services	(a) Rehabilitation of bridges and rural roads (b) Rehabilitation of smallholder micro-irrigation (c) Reforestation of risk and protection zones (d) Establishment of banks and outlets for agricultural inputs and tools	IFAD grant $500,000	Approximately 7 300 households

Country/ organization	*Programme title*	*Programme objectives*	*Programme area and target group*	*Programme components*	*Programme cost and financing*	*Beneficiaries*
		infrastructure facilities and communities (d) Supply producers with agricultural inputs and tools through microbanks and outlets managed by community associations or municipal authorities to prepare producers for the next agricultural season				